

Leviticus 6:1-30

Leviticus 6 lays out instructions for dealing with **trespasses**, the **burnt offering**, the **meal offering**, and the **sin offering**. At its heart, this chapter is about accountability, confession, and worship. It's a reminder that how we treat others and approach God matters—and when we mess up, there's a path to restoration.

When Do You Need a Trespass Offering?

Here are some situations where someone needed to make things right:

1. **Breaking trust:** If you borrowed something from your neighbor and damaged or lost it but lied about what happened, you were guilty. It wasn't just about your neighbor—you were trespassing against God, too.
2. **Stealing or cheating:** If you took something or dealt unfairly with someone, you had to confess and make it right.
3. **Careless promises:** If you made a careless vow or didn't follow through on what you said, you had to own up to it.

What's the Process for Restoring Trust?

1. **Confession comes first:** Before anything else, you had to admit, "I was wrong." No excuses or covering it up—just honesty before God.
2. **Make it right with others:** If you hurt someone or damaged their property, you had to pay them back **in full** and add 20% to it as compensation.
3. **Bring a trespass offering:** You'd bring a ram without blemish to the priest, who would offer it before God to cover your guilt.

The Burnt Offering (Verses 8-13)

The burnt offering was different because it was completely consumed on the altar—nothing was left over. Here are some key takeaways:

- **The fire never went out:** God started the fire on the altar, but it was the priests' job to keep it burning. They had to add wood throughout the night and day, making sure it stayed lit 24/7.
- **Symbolic meaning:** The never-ending fire reminds us that our connection with God should be constant, not just something we focus on occasionally.

The Meal Offering (Verses 14-18, 19-23)

The meal offering was an offering of fine flour, oil, and frankincense. It symbolized gratitude and dedication to God. The priests would eat most of it, but if the priest himself offered it, it had to be completely burned as a sweet-smelling aroma to God.

The Sin Offering (Verses 24-30)

The sin offering was for people who sinned unintentionally. Here's what happened:

- The priest would sacrifice the animal in the same spot as the burnt offering.
- The blood from the sacrifice was sprinkled, and some parts of the animal were burned on the altar.
- The priest got to eat part of the sin offering, but only in the sacred area. This symbolized sharing in the work of atonement.

Real-Life Lessons for Us

1. **Confession breaks the cycle:** If you've ever lied, cheated, or hurt someone, you probably know how exhausting it is to keep up the act. God's way is simple: confess, make it right, and move forward.
2. **Accountability matters:** It wasn't just about confessing to God. People were required to repay what they owed and add extra as a way of restoring trust and healing relationships. For us, this means taking responsibility for the harm we've caused and doing what we can to fix it.
3. **Keep the fire burning:** Just like the priests had to keep the fire on the altar going, we're called to keep our connection with God alive. This could mean daily prayer, reading the Bible, or just being intentional about your relationship with Him.
4. **Represent God well:** Eli's sons abused their position as priests, and it turned people off from worshiping God. If you claim to follow Jesus, how you treat others reflects on Him. Are you showing love, kindness, and fairness, or are you pushing people away?

Takeaway

This chapter reminds us that God cares about both our relationships with others and with Him. When we mess up—and we all do—He doesn't want us to stay stuck in guilt or shame. Instead, He invites us to confess, make things right, and move forward. And because of Jesus, we don't need to bring animal sacrifices anymore—His sacrifice covers it all. So the next time you find yourself holding onto guilt, remember that God's forgiveness is available, and He wants you to live free.